



Joint News Release

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2016

TRAVEL RELATED CASE OF ZIKA VIRUS REPORTED ON KAUAI *Mosquito Control Measures Taken*

LIHUE, Kauai, Hawaii – The Kauai District Health Office and the County of Kauai jointly announced today another imported case of Zika virus on Kauai. This is the second travel-related case of Zika on Kauai this year confirmed by the Department of Health's State Laboratories Division. The Kauai resident has a history of recent travel to the South Pacific, but is past the point of being infectious to mosquitoes.

This year, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) has confirmed a total of 10 imported cases throughout the state. Hawaii has no locally acquired Zika cases at this time, and no mosquitoes transmitting the disease within the state.

A Vector Control team from the Kauai District Health Office was sent to visit the individual's residence to survey the area for mosquitoes and determine if there was a need to treat the area to reduce any mosquito breeding sites. DOH continues to coordinate closely with its county partners to assure a targeted and efficient response.

"The Department of Health is working with the County of Kauai to take proactive steps to assess affected areas for mosquito activity, educate communities, and treat mosquito breeding sites," said Acting Kauai District Health Officer Toni Torres. "This event is a serious reminder that we all need to take steps to prevent mosquito bites especially when traveling to affected areas worldwide, and eliminate mosquitoes by emptying standing water where they can breed."

Zika continues to spread in multiple regions across the world, and imported or travel-related cases are expected to increase this year. Travelers are advised to prevent infection while traveling by using repellent and by staying away from mosquitoes. Travelers should also

prevent mosquito bites when they return from areas with mosquito borne disease outbreaks, as well as monitor their health and see their healthcare provider about illness occurring in the 2–3 weeks after return from travel.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends special precautions for women who are pregnant or may become pregnant. Pregnant women should not travel to areas with Zika. If travel cannot be avoided, women should consult with their healthcare providers first and vigilantly follow steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes.

For more tips on how to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne viruses, visit

fightthebitehawaii.com

For travel guidance, visit <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>.

For information on Zika and pregnancy, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html>.

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